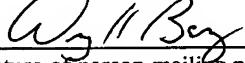


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I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above, with sufficient postage affixed, and is addressed to Mail Stop Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

William H. Benz
Name of person mailing paper or fee


Signature of person mailing paper or fee

Patent
Attorney's Docket No. 005950-843

22387 U.S. PTO
10/660338
09/10/03



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

**REQUEST FOR FILING CONTINUATION/DIVISIONAL
APPLICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b)**

MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Customer No. **21839**

Sir:

This is a request for filing a continuation divisional application under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b) of pending Application No. 09/964,930 filed on September 26, 2001, for BENTONITE NODULES, by the following named inventor(s):

(a) Full Name Maurice L. James
(b) Full Name Kieth A. Hejl
(c) Full Name _____

Applicant(s) hereby requests that the above-captioned application **NOT BE PUBLISHED** under 35 U.S.C. § 122(b) and 37 C.F.R. § 1.211. The undersigned hereby certifies that the invention disclosed in this application has not and will not be the subject of an application filed in another country, or under a multilateral international agreement, that requires publication at eighteen months after filing.

The entire disclosure of the prior application from which a copy of the oath or declaration is supplied herewith is considered as being part of the disclosure of the accompanying application and is hereby incorporated by reference therein.

This application is being filed by less than all the inventors named in the prior application. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.63(d)(2), the Commissioner is requested to delete the name(s) of the following person or persons who are not inventors of the invention being claimed in this application.

(a) Full Name _____
(b) Full Name _____
(c) Full Name _____

This application is being filed by more than all the inventors named in the prior application. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.63(d)(5), a new oath or declaration is enclosed, and the Commissioner is requested to add the name(s) of the following person or persons who are inventors of the invention being claimed in this application.

(a) Full Name _____
(b) Full Name _____
(c) Full Name _____

Request for Filing Continuation/Divisional Application
 of Application No. 09/964,930
 Attorney's Docket No. 005950-843
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Applicant(s) suggests Figure 4 for inclusion on the front page of the patent application publication and/or patent.

Applicant(s) requests that the published application include the following assignment information: .

1. Enclosed is a copy of the prior Application No. 09/964,930 as originally filed on September 26, 2001, including copies of the specification, claims, drawings and the executed oath or declaration as filed.
2. Enclosed is a revised prior application and a copy of the prior executed oath or declaration as filed. No new matter has been added to the revised application.
3. Small entity status is hereby claimed.
4. The filing fee is calculated below [X] and in accordance with the enclosed preliminary amendment:

C L A I M S					
	NO. OF CLAIMS		EXTRA CLAIMS	RATE	FEE
Basic Application Fee					\$750.00 (1001)
Total Claims	21	MINUS 20 =	1	× \$18.00 (1202) =	\$18.00
Independent Claims	3	MINUS 3 =	0	× \$84.00 (1201) =	0
If multiple dependent claims are presented, add \$280.00 (1203)					
Total Application Fee					\$768.00
If small entity status is claimed, subtract 50% of Total Application Fee					
Add Assignment Recording Fee of \$ <u> </u> if Assignment document is enclosed					
TOTAL APPLICATION FEE DUE					\$768.00

5. This application is being filed without a filing fee. Issuance of a Notice to File Missing Parts of Application is respectfully requested.
6. Charge \$ to Deposit Account No. 02-4800 for the fee due.
7. A check in the amount of \$ 768.00 is enclosed for the fee due.
8. The Director is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16, 1.17 and 1.21 that may be required by this paper, and to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 02-4800. This paper is submitted in duplicate.
9. Cancel in this application original claims 22-33 of the prior application before calculating the filing fee.
10. New drawings are enclosed.
11. Priority of Application No. filed on in (country) is claimed under 35 U.S.C. § 119.
 - The certified copy of the priority application

Request for Filing Continuation/Divisional Application
of Application No. 09/964,930
Attorney's Docket No. 005950-843
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[] is enclosed.

[] was filed on __ in prior Application No. __, filed on __, and acknowledged by the Examiner on __ in Paper No. __.

[] has not yet been filed.

12. [X] Please amend the first paragraph of the specification to refer to prior applications as set forth in the preliminary amendment.

13. [X] A preliminary amendment is enclosed.

14. [] An Information Disclosure Statement is enclosed.

15. [] A General Authorization for Payment of Fees and Petitions for Extensions of Time is enclosed.

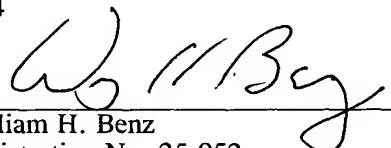
16. [X] Also enclosed Acknowledgment Postcard.

17. [] The power of attorney in the prior application is to William H. Benz, Reg. No. 25,952.
a. [X] The power appears in the original papers in the prior application.
b. [] Since the power does not appear in the original papers, a copy of the power in the prior application is enclosed.
c. [] Recognize as Associate Attorney __.
d. [X] Address all future communications to: (May only be completed by applicant, or attorney or agent of record.)

William H. Benz
BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.
Customer Number: 21839
P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404

Date: September 10, 2003

By:


William H. Benz
Registration No. 25,952
Attorney for Applicants
Redwood Shores, CA Office
(650)622-2300

ADDRESS OF SIGNATOR:

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.
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Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
(703) 836-6620

[] inventor(s)
[] assignee of complete interest
[X] attorney or agent of record
[] filed under 37 C.F.R. § 1.34(a)